

# The Montana Prescription Drug Monitoring Program

FACT SHEET

## Reason for a PDMP & Scope of the Problem

- Prescription drug abuse comprises approximately 30% of all drug abuse in the United States, the fourth most abused substances behind only alcohol, tobacco, & marijuana.
- Over 15 million Americans abuse opioids, depressants, or stimulants; This number exceeds the combined number of Americans abusing cocaine, hallucinogens, inhalants & heroin
- Between 1992 and 2003 :
  - Adult abuse rose 81%
  - Teen abuse rose 212%
  - Teen abuse of prescription opioids rose 542%
- Teen risk of abusing prescription drugs :
  - 5 times the risk of using marijuana
  - 12 times the risk of using heroin
  - 15 times the risk of using ecstasy
  - 21 times the risk of using cocaine
- Prescription drug abuse leads to “drug diversion”, which is the channeling of licit pharmaceuticals for illicit purposes or abuse.
- Prescription abuse and diversion :
  - threatens patient & public safety
  - impacts the medical community
  - impacts law enforcement and the criminal justice system
  - impacts employers & coworkers
  - impacts insurance carrier payments

## What is a Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP)?

- A Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) utilizes a centralized database to collect and analyze schedule II-V controlled substances from all resident and nonresident pharmacies that dispense prescriptions to residents of Montana.
- Physicians, other prescribers, and pharmacists may request a confidential report from the PDMP which shows all scheduled prescriptions a patient has filled during a specified time period, the doctor who prescribed them, and the pharmacy that dispensed them.
- PDMPs are intended to be a source of information for practitioners and pharmacists to use in the care of patients, as well as a tool to help deter drug abuse and diversion. A PDMP is NOT intended to prevent patients from obtaining needed drugs.

## Benefits of a Prescription Drug Monitoring Program

- **Education & Information.** PDMPs provide useful feedback to prescribers on their own prescribing trends, patient drug history, and assurance to doctors who suspect a patient may be non-compliant regarding prescription use.
- **Public Health Initiatives.** The public health community can use information from the PDMP to monitor trends and address prescribing problems.
- **Drug Abuse Prevention.** Prescribers, dispensers, and consumers will be deterred from participating in illegal drug diversion schemes if they know a prescription monitoring program is in place.
- **Early Intervention.** Identify patients for early assessment and treatment.

## How will Montana Fund a PDMP ? ? ?

- A \$400,000 Implementation Grant is available through the US Department of Justice. The Montana Board of Pharmacy is working collaboratively with the Montana Board of Crime Control to prepare the grant application.
- If Montana is awarded the DOJ grant, the Board of Pharmacy will administer the PDMP and the function of the Board of Crime Control will be to administer the grant funds.
- The PDMP will be sustained long term by establishing a minimal fee payable by all licensees that prescribe, dispense, or distribute controlled substances.

## CURRENT PDMP ACTIVITY IN THE UNITED STATES

- 23 states currently have PDMP's in operation.
- 32 states have enacted legislation enabling PDMPs & 6 more have legislation pending
- The surrounding states of Idaho, Wyoming, & Utah currently have PDMPs